



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Planning Department Wraps PlanCheyenne, Launches Belvoir Ranch Plan**

**Cheyenne, June 6, 2007** – The City of Cheyenne is finalizing their award-winning plan and immediately launching into another planning effort covering an area nearly the size of the existing corporate limits. *PlanCheyenne*, winner of the prestigious Daniel Burnham Award issued by the American Planning Association, has garnered national attention for its innovative approach to community planning by integrating parks & recreation, transportation, and scenario-based land-use planning, urban character, and community design. The completed document is now available on the redesigned project website, [www.plancheyenne.com](http://www.plancheyenne.com), and printed copies are available by contacting the City Planning Department at 307.637.6271.

The *PlanCheyenne* website is innovative in providing several options for searching this extensive planning document. In addition to two key-concept search menus, the website also provides an expandable content file manager which allows citizens, developers, elected officials, and staff to locate and isolate specific sections of the plan for use in guiding the growth of the community. In addition to this online resource, the plan is also available on Compact Disk for distribution.

The Belvoir Ranch Master Plan process kicks off this month with the arrival of a new website, [www.belvoirranch.org](http://www.belvoirranch.org). This website will be the portal for information regarding the new plan, and will include an option for interested citizens to sign up for an e-mail update list to stay informed on the progress of the project. The Belvoir Ranch includes 17,000-acres of property purchased by the City of Cheyenne in 2003 for the purpose of municipal water development and the siting of a landfill. In 2005, an additional 1,800-acres of property was purchased in coordination with The Nature Conservancy and Larimer County, Colorado. Commonly known as the 'Big Hole', this property includes dramatic views and spectacular cultural and natural resources. This portion of the property is protected under a conservation agreement held by The Nature Conservancy, and bridges publicly-owned lands in Wyoming with over 33,000-acres of protected lands in Northern Colorado. In addition to the above-mentioned uses for the

property, additional uses for the area could include recreation opportunities, an interstate trail system, wind energy development and continued agricultural use of the Belvoir Ranch.

The public will play a critical role in determining the future of these properties. An extensive public participation process has been identified to help facilitate the community's vision for the property and specify policies and procedures to help guide future decisions. During the process, all potential and suggested uses will be considered and evaluated for compatibility with the overall vision for the property. The entire process is expected to take about a year, with a formal adoption process taking place next summer or fall.

The plan will cost \$195,000 and is being funded cooperatively by the City of Cheyenne and the Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities. Additionally, the project has received a \$40,000 grant from the State of Wyoming's Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust program, a new initiative by the State to enhance and conserve wildlife habitat and natural resource values throughout Wyoming. This partnership will help the City in identifying the best management practices that will help retain the wildlife and natural amenities that people have come to expect from Wyoming.

Join the kickoff meeting for the planning process on Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Laramie County Community College's CCI Building, Room 130 from 5:30PM – 7:30PM. A formal presentation will given at 6:00PM, after which the public will be given the opportunity to express preferences for potential types of public uses and their visual character.

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#### **ABOUT PLANCHEYENNE**

The Cheyenne Area Comprehensive Master Plan was adopted in November of 2006 to aid in guiding this fast-growing community in preparing for the future. *PlanCheyenne* was awarded the American Planning Association's highest honor, the Daniel Burnham Award for a comprehensive plan in 2007, joining an elite group of cities to win the honor, including the likes of Chicago, Toronto, and the Envision Utah planning effort. *PlanCheyenne* integrates three distinct planning disciplines into one process – transportation planning; parks & recreation planning; and scenario-based land-use planning, urban character, and community design. The plan's innovative website, [www.plancheyenne.com](http://www.plancheyenne.com), utilizes several tools to make the plan easily accessible, including issue-based search menus and an expandable content file manager that allows for individual sections of the plan to be viewed and printed individually.

#### **ABOUT BELVOIR RANCH MASTER PLAN**

The Belvoir Ranch Master Plan will shape the use and development of an area encompassing 18,800 deeded acres and 3,400-acres of leased State Land sections. The project includes the Belvoir Ranch, purchased by the City in 2003 with the primary goal of developing municipal water resources and siting of a landfill. Additionally, the project includes the Wyoming portion of the Big Hole, an area unmatched in the region for its unique environment, cultural resources, and natural beauty. Purchased in 2005 in conjunction with partners from The Nature Conservancy and Larimer County, Colorado, the Big Hole serves as a bridge between protected lands in Wyoming and 33,264-acres of Open Space and protected lands in Northern Colorado. For more information on participating in the Belvoir Ranch Master Plan process, visit our website at [www.belvoirranch.org](http://www.belvoirranch.org).

**ABOUT CHEYENNE, WYOMING**

The City of Cheyenne is the northern anchor of the rapidly growing Rocky Mountain Front Range. Just 90-minutes from Denver, Cheyenne is the State Capital of Wyoming and home to the recently announced National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Supercomputer. Cheyenne's mission is to be a 'Community of Choice' where people from all walks of life can live and thrive. Located at the intersection of Interstates 80 and 25, Cheyenne is experiencing significant growth, with a population approaching 60,000. For more information, call 307.637.6000.